

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/846,377

Examiner

James D. Ewart

Applicant(s)

MENDIOLA ET AL.

Art Unit

2617

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to RCE 10 October 2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-20 renumbered 1-7, 15, 8, 16, 20, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 17, 14, 18 and 19 respectively.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☐ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

Application/Control Number: 09/846,377

Art Unit: 2617

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments filed June 14, 2006 have been fully considered by the Examiner, and upon further review of Applicant's remarks and additional search, the Examiner is persuaded by Applicant's remarks and the Examiner finds the application in condition for allowance.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 1-20 are allowed. The reason for allowability is explained below:

Referring to claims 1 and 11, the references cited do not teach a method for registering *or inviting registration of a prospective user of an instant messaging system* comprising a plurality of clients having IM applications of the same or different types, selectively interconnected to an IM server by way of a computer network, the method comprising the following steps: receiving a client specific access address of a prospective user on the computer network together with a request to register or tentatively register an account for said prospective user; automatically generating and allocating a unique identifier to the prospective user; matching said unique identifier to the client specific access address of the prospective user; wherein if the initial receiving was a direct request to register from the prospective user, registering an account for said prospective user by storing the matched unique identifier and client specific access address with said IM server under the unique identifier; ***determining whether the initial receiving was associated with a request to register the prospective user from someone other than the prospective user and in response to said determining step***, tentatively registering an account for said prospective user by storing the matched unique identifier and client specific access address with said IM server under the unique identifier; and sending

Application/Control Number: 09/846,377


Art Unit: 2617

notification of said unique identifier to said prospective user at the client specific address of the prospective user, wherein said notification confirms the registering of the prospective user if the initial receiving was associated with a direct request to register from the prospective user; and in response to said determining step, *said notification invites registration of the prospective user.*

Conclusion

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to James D. Ewart whose telephone number is (571) 272-7864. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 7am - 4pm. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Bill Trost can be reached on (571)272-7872. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (571) 273-8300 for regular communications and (571) 273-8300 for After Final communications. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (571)272-2600.


Ewart
December 20, 2006


WILLIAM TROST
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